

think like any venture capitalist we ought to ask what is the return we are getting on that money, because there are a lot of uses for that \$40 billion and every Member of Congress has a different priority.

But we ought to be asking, what are we going to get back? The Governor of Texas has told us what we will get back is a 90 percent passage rate at the end of five years on a high-quality State test that will test their ability to perform in both reading and mathematics. In the other 12 States it is something in between. A lot of it is rhetoric, a lot of it is no goals and no accountability.

The President stood here in the State of the Union and said that he wanted accountability, the parents wanted accountability, and clearly Members of Congress do. When the Ed-Flex bill comes to the floor, we should demand that it have provisions for accountability. We ought to at least demand something as rigorous as the Governor of Texas and the State legislature were prepared to put on the line in the name of education reform.

REPUBLICAN AGENDA FOR THIS YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to talk a little bit about the Republican agenda for this year, and that agenda is called Best Schools and Military and Agriculture, and "BEST" in this case stands for balancing the budget, "E" is for education, "S" is for saving Social Security, "T" is for lowering taxes and, of course, having the best military and agriculture.

We want to balance the budget, but first we believe that Social Security, that part of the surplus needs to be firewalled and protected, not masked in with the rest of the general operating expenses. We believe Social Security should be a freestanding account. That lowers the amount of the surplus, and then that amount of the surplus should be divided out between lowering down the debt and tax reductions.

Now, Mr. Speaker, think about this: If you have a credit card and each month you run up a big deficit, and one month you do not, does that mean you are excused from all the months of debt that you accumulated? Of course not. You have got to go back and pay the debt. And I do not believe the President is being responsible when he does not mention paying down the debt as part of his agenda. We have got to pay down the \$5.4 trillion debt.

In education we believe in local control, we believe in sending the dollars back to the teacher in the classroom, not sending more dollars to the Washington bureaucracy so you can have

more Washington bureaucrats telling local school boards how to teach Johnny how to read.

On saving the Social Security: Number 1, firewall it. Make sure that that Social Security surplus is designated for its intended purposes and not used for roads and bridges.

And on tax reductions we believe that the middle class is working too hard to earn their money and that we are wasting too much of it. I believe that it is important for us to have a good government present, I believe we have to fund a lot of essential programs, but what the taxpayers who are working 50 and 60 hours a week resent, and rightfully so, is the duplication and waste in government, and we have got to cut down some of the absurdities in our government.

And on the military, we have to have the strongest Army in the world. America has to be the defender of freedom and democracy around the globe. Unfortunately we did say, okay, let us be the policemen of the world; it is just the way it is.

We need to have a military that has modern equipment, we need to have a military that is ready, and we need to have quality of life for our soldiers. We lose lots and lots of soldiers every year because they can get better jobs at higher pay and they do not have to worry about being deployed all over the globe the way this administration seems to deploy people.

This administration's approach to foreign policy is let us deploy American troops and leave them there permanently. If we are going to commit American troops to an area, let us go for an objective, let us have a time frame, let us have a plan for lasting peace and stability once we leave, but let us leave.

And then finally on agriculture, America needs to have support of an abundant and lasting food supply. We have one of the greatest agricultural economies in the world. America has only spent 11 cents of the dollar that they earn on food and on groceries, and yet we forget the American farmer. We need to have crop insurance reform, we need to look at some of the unfair trade practices of our foreign importers, and we need to do everything we can to unshackle the farmer from some of the unnecessary regulations that they are operating under.

Mr. Speaker, I want to yield the floor to my friend and colleague from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) who wants to talk about the surplus.

Mr. DUNCAN. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and just a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker, I pointed out that Newsweek magazine said a little over a week ago that if we enacted everything that the President has promised in the last few days, we would have a \$2.3 trillion shortfall in the next 15 years and totally really wreck our good economy.

But I mentioned a column that I want to include in the RECORD by nationally syndicated columnist Charley Reese, and I want to read a portion of that column at this time.

He said after the State of the Union in his column:

So, starting with two lies, the President then proceeds to spend a nonexistent surplus stretching 15 years into the future. Even if this year's surplus were real, there is no way to predict that the surpluses will continue for 15 years into the future. That is pure fantasy.

The President's promising this and promising that, all financed by a nonexistent future surplus, is a perfect example of demagoguery. Furthermore, everything he proposed, except spending more on defense, is unconstitutional.

Yes, I know that nobody pays any attention to the Constitution except lawyers trying to get around it, and so forth.

But he continues in this column, Mr. Reese does. He says:

It's dismaying that more people can't see through this thinly disguised con game Washington politicians are playing. All this amounts to is blatant vote-buying, as corrupt as if they were standing outside the voting booths, stuffing \$20 bills into people's pockets. It amounts to robbing Jane to buy the vote of Betsy.

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I tell you, as I said a minute ago, if we do what the children and what the families of this country need, we will hold back on this and not go into all of this ridiculous and wasteful spending, so that our good economic times can continue. But it will be so easy to end these good times if we fall off and go along with all of these high sounding and wonderful promises that have been made over the last few days.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I think it is very important for us to remember, Mr. Speaker, that that surplus largely comes from Social Security, and what we want to do is protect Social Security, pay down the debt and then look at tax reduction for the middle class, because there is so much waste and duplication of government.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE 106TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule XI clause 2(a)(2) of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 106th Congress, I am requesting that the new Rules of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, which were adopted on January 20, 1999, be printed in their entirety in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for today.